REMARKS

There remains pending in this application Claims 1-25, of which Claims 7-16 have been withdrawn from consideration. Of the claims presented for consideration, Claims 1 and 22 are independent.

Initially, Applicant notes with appreciation that Claims 3, 19 and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. These claims remain in dependent form, however, as it is submitted that their respective independent claims are patentable in their own right for the reasons discussed below.

Claim 18 stands objected to for not having "structural limitations." In response, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 18 is directed to a recording method, and thus is not required to include structural limitations. In any event, editorial changes have been made to better set forth the invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to Claim 18 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 22 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Takagi '587. Claims 6, 17, 18, 21 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Takagi '587 in various combinations with secondary citations to Kanda '322, Kanda '393 and Fujita '558. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 of Applicant's invention relates to a recording method for use in a recording system for completing an image by multiple scans of a recording head. The method includes the steps of reading an image recorded by a predetermined number of scans among the multiple scans of the reporting head except at least the last scan, and correcting, based on a result

of reading the image in the reading step, data for an image to be recorded by one or more scans subsequent to the predetermined number of scans. The image is correctively recording by performing one or more scans subsequent to the predetermined number of scans in accordance with the corrected data.

In Claim 22, a recording method includes a first recording step for recording an image, a reading step for reading the image recorded by the first recording step, and a correcting step for producing data to correct the image recorded in the first recording step based on the results of the reading step. In addition, a second recording step records the data produced in a correcting step on the image recorded in the first recording step.

In accordance with Applicant's claimed invention, the correcting step is based on the results of reading a recorded image. In this way, a high-performance recording method can be provided.

Takagi relates to a print system that reduces "banding" at the boundaries of the image area being recorded. It accomplishes this by statically setting a lower ink density on the outer orifices of the print head and overlapping those outer orifices on subsequent recording steps to reduce the appearance of streaks (bands) on the finished recording image.

In contrast to Applicant's claimed invention, however, Takagi does not teach or suggest, among other features, correcting data for an image to be recorded based on the reading of a recorded image. Instead, the second scan (or recording step) in Takagi is executed from a predetermined position derived from the width of the print head. Takagi does not correct data based on a result of reading the recorded image. Accordingly, reconsideration and

withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 22 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

The secondary citations fail to compensate for the deficiencies in Takagi as discussed above with respect to Claims 1 and 22.

Kanda '322, relates to an ink jet printer and was cited for its teaching of printing patterns of dots.

Kanda '393 also relates to an ink jet printer and was cited for its teaching of using different nozzles in different printing scans.

Finally, Fujita relates to a color ink jet head and was cited for its teaching of using binary data and printing with a higher density.

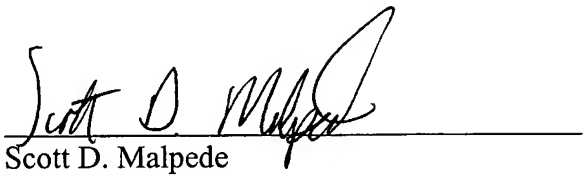
Without conceding the propriety of modifying Takagi in view of one or more of the secondary citations, it is submitted that such combinations still fail to teach or suggest Applicant's claimed invention. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 are respectfully requested.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in independent Claims 1 and 22 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 2-7, 16-21 and 23-25 set forth additional features of Applicant's invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott D. Malpede
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 32,533

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

SDM\nm

DC_MAIN 236115v1